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LETTER DATED 8 JULY 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I should like to point out that the United States of America has sought to deny the fact that its aircraft and aircraft of the coalition forces have committed the crimes of setting fire to Iraqi crops in the Ninawa Governorate. This denial is at variance with reality. As is widely known, on 20 June 1992 the official Pentagon spokesman claimed that one aircraft had dropped flares over Iraqi territory owing to pilot error and that another aircraft had done likewise because one of the crew believed that Iraqi radar installations were tracking him, an acknowledgement that came after the United States Department of State had categorically denied that American and British aircraft had done anything. The contradiction reveals above all the intentional American policy of covering up the crime committed against Iraqi civilians, because the burning of Iraqi crops was not the result of one or two isolated events but the outcome of a long series of connected incidents. This corroborates the deliberate and intentional character of the repeated occurrences.

United States officials have claimed that Iraq invented allegations of the burning of farmland in order to deflect blame for Iraq's alleged failure to ensure the welfare of its people as a result of its rejection of Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991). Their claim is nonsensical and trivial. American officials know perfectly well that the element that fails to ensure the welfare of the Iraqi people is their hysterical insistence on maintaining the iniquitous and unlawful economic embargo imposed on the Iraqi people for dubious political goals that have no connection with the international legitimacy that they proclaim. The Americans are fully aware that Iraq has endeavoured with palpable earnestness and in good faith to reach agreement in the Vienna negotiations. It is the United States of America, however, that occupies the leading position among those States which do not wish to arrive at a reasonable agreement, and it is the United States that takes the negotiations back to square one whenever there are any prospects of imminent agreement.

American officials are sceptical, on the basis of what they call "technical accuracy", of the truth of Iraq's statement to the effect that the Sanctions Committee has refused to allow the importation of agricultural machinery. The truth is that this twisted way of presenting issues does not in any way alter the facts. It has become universally accepted that the United States of America is waging an unholy war against the Iraqi people in maintaining the unjust and unlawful economic embargo by its constant rejection in the Sanctions Committee of the simplest requests aimed at providing for the civilian needs of that people and doing so for reasons that have no connection whatever with the alleged international legitimacy proclaimed by the United States. American representatives reject Iraqi requests on the grounds that they would be conducive to the restoration of the infrastructure of the Iraqi economy. At the same time, there is in existence no instrument stipulating that such infrastructure may not be restored. Because of the position adopted by the United States and its coalition partners, the Sanctions Committee has, on this pretext, rejected requests for the Iraqi Company for the Drug Industries to receive supplies of materials used in the medication industries and for the supply of materials used in the manufacture of cleaning agents and fats and even of primary materials used in the manufacture of footwear and sports equipment.

It is also widely known that United States officials claim that the coalition forces are authorized to carry out overflights of Iraqi territory and that these measures and others are of assistance in the distribution of what they call humanitarian relief to oppressed Iraqi civilians and in providing protection to those involved in such activities. These officials employ shameless sophistry and deception in this connection when they cite Security Council resolution 688 (1991) and other resolutions of the Council and claim that they provide them with the authorization in question under the aspect of preserving international peace and security from threat. Any fair and objective student of these resolutions cannot ignore the great variety of their legal character and the consequences to which that variety gives rise. The activities of the coalition forces in northern Iraq cannot be justified on any legal grounds, and they are no more than acts of armed intervention that are not admissible in international law or under the Charter of the United Nations. The acts in question are being committed on a daily basis for one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to undermine the security and stability of Iraq, intimidate its citizens and set fire to their fields as part of a criminal scheme that is endeavouring to alter Iraq's national political order. This goal has been openly declared in the highest political circles in the United States, and cloaking it with the technical pedantry of American officials cannot disguise the brutal acts of force and arrogance being perpetrated. It cannot escape the Iraqi people that it is the United States of America, which proclaims its concern that that people should be provided with humanitarian assistance, that is preventing the lifting of the unjust economic embargo imposed upon it and that is hysterically seeking to undermine its political stability.

The denial by American officials of the fact that their aircraft dropped the flares is ingenuous. The most salient proof of that is provided by the

films* and photographs of the loathsome crime that we are forwarding to you together with this letter.

Iraq once more reiterates its request that the Security Council should consider its complaint against this crime. It further asserts that the United States and United Kingdom Governments bear international responsibility and all of the legal consequences that follow thereon. Accordingly, Iraq calls upon them to desist from internationally prohibited acts and to pay compensation for the material losses in lives and property.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its attachments circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir K. K. AL-NIMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* Video tape is available in room S-3520.

Date : 06-18-1992

Place: Al-Shuhada'a Village
Al-Zallat Hill.

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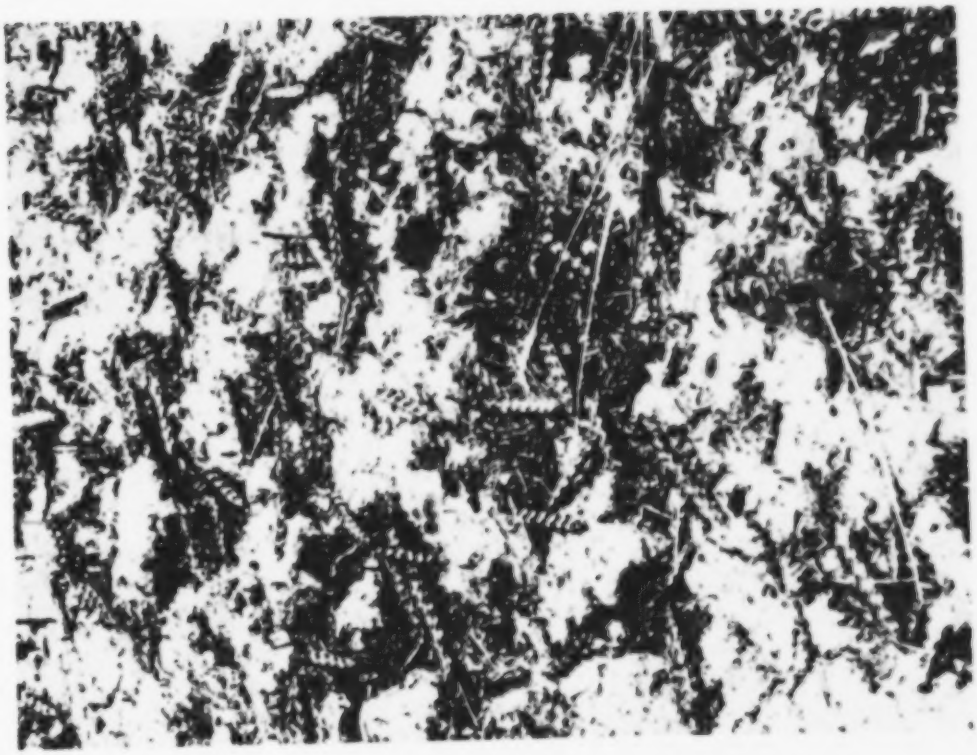

Date : 06-10-1992